

REMARKS

Claims 50 and 55-96 are pending in this application. Claims 1-49 and 51-54 have been canceled without prejudice to their reintroduction herein or in a future continuation or divisional application.

Claim 50 has been allowed by the Examiner. Minor amendments have been presented to address typographical errors.

The Examiner also has indicated that claims 16 and 26 contain allowable subject matter. Applicant has rewritten claims 16 and 26 as new claims 55 and 56, respectively. It is respectfully submitted that claims 55 and 56 remain consistent with the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter, and are in condition for allowance.

New claims 57-75 depend directly or indirectly from claim 55, which as noted above represents claim 16 rewritten in independent format and containing the allowable subject matter. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 57-75 are also in condition for allowance by virtue of their dependency from claim 55, and also because the added subject matter of many of the dependent claims is neither disclosed in nor reasonably suggested by the applied art.

New independent claim 76 recites a door comprising, *inter alia*, a door skin as recited in claim 55. By virtue of the recitation of all of the features of claim 55 in new independent claim 76, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 76 contains allowable subject matter. Applicant respectfully submits that claims 77-96 are also in condition for allowance by virtue of their dependency from claim 76, and also because the added subject matter of many of the dependent claims is neither disclosed in nor reasonably suggested by the applied art.

Applicant further notes that dependent claims recite additional features which, when read in combination with the claim as a whole, are neither disclosed in nor suggested by the applied art.

For all of these reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that all active claims 50 and 55-96 are in condition for allowance.

Specification

Applicant has amended the disclosure to correct the priority claim, in accordance with the constructive suggestion of the Examiner. Approval and entry of the amendment to the specification and withdrawal of the objection are respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections -- 35 U.S.C. § 112

The Section 112, second paragraph rejection has been rendered moot by the cancellation of claims 1-49 and 51-54. Applicant has presented new claims 55-96 bearing in mind the specific concerns raised by the Examiner.

Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of this rejection.

Double Patenting

Claims 1-12, 18-24, and 29-43 have been provisionally rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-34 of copending application 10/351,592.

Applicant respectfully submits that this rejection is rendered moot. In the event that the Examiner might believe that the rejection is appropriate vis-à-vis new claims 55-

96, such rejection is respectfully traversed. The new claims are based on original claim 16, which was not subject to this rejection. The claims of the cited co-pending patent application do not disclose or reasonably suggest door skins and doors containing a decorative layer and molding insert for covering cracks in the decorative layer, in combination with the other claimed features.

For these reasons, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections -- 35 U.S.C. § 102 & 103

Claims 1-11, 13-15, 18, 22, 23, 25, 29, 30, 32-43, and 46 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,540,026 to Gartland.

Claims 12, 24, and 31 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gartland. (Although the Office Action indicates that the rejection is based upon Bauer, the Examiner advised in a telephone interview that the proper reference was Gartland.) Claims 27, 28, 44, and 45 have been rejected under Section 103 as being unpatentable over Gartland in view of U.S. Patent No. 2,692,450 to Reinemer.

Applicant respectfully submits that the rejections have been rendered moot by the cancellation of the rejected claims. In the event that the Examiner believes the rejection is applicable to any of new claims 55-96, Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

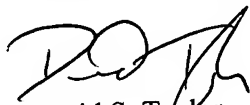
Applicant notes that independent claims 55 and 76 are each based on original claim 16, which was not subject to the rejections. For this reason alone, Applicant respectfully submits that the new claims are not anticipated or rendered unpatentable by the applied art. Additionally, Applicant respectfully submits that additional features

recited in many of the dependent claims are neither disclosed in nor reasonably suggested by the applied art.

For these reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that the Section 102 and 103 rejections should be withdrawn.

It is believed that no fee is due for this submission. Should that determination be incorrect, then please debit Account 50-0548 and notify the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,



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